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wheat in the absence of oxygen, there is no increase in diastase, but the amount formed in air and in pure O_2 is equal. Increasing etherization of seedlings reduces their growth and also the diastase. Traces of acid favor the production of secretion diastase, but not of translocation diastase, while larger amounts hinder in both. In general leaves that readily store starch have much diastase, while those that contain sugar do not; but this is not uniformly true. Insolated starchy leaves have more diastase than starch-free shade leaves of the same plant. No increase of diastase on darkening pea leaves was observable; but the author does not consider the experiments with light satisfactory.—C. R. B.

Nourishment of embryos.—Basing his study upon the conclusions, already well established, that the endosperm is a live tissue which may affect *ipso facto* the development of the embryo, STINGL reports the results¹² of his experiments to determine how embryos were affected by other endosperm than their own. He tested rye, barley, oats, and wheat reciprocally. No embryo freed from the endosperm could be made to develop fully, nor even when replaced after the operation did it develop as well as undisturbed ones. The four sorts were unequally affected. Rye developed about equally with its own and wheat endosperm; not so well with others. Wheat did better with rye endosperm than with its own, but not so well with barley and oats. Barley flourished with wheat endosperm, grew less with its own and rye, and least with oats. Oats embryos developed far more uniformly with strange endosperms than the others did with oats endosperm, though it did best with its own. One must suspect that some neglected factor is accountable for the surprising conclusion that a plant may develop better with foreign endosperm than with its own.—C. R. B.

Alpine plankton studies.—SHANTZ¹³ has made a comparative study of the plankton of the lakes of the plains and mountains near Pike's Peak. The different alpine lakes studied differ somewhat largely from each other, but in general their plankton is not abundant, and it is only in the fall that algae become dominant. The plains lakes studied are artificial; their plankton is many times more abundant than is that of the alpine lakes.—HENRY C. COWLES.

¹² STINGL, G., Experimentelle Studie über die Ernährung von pflanzlichen Embryonen. *Flora* 97:308-331. 1907.

¹³ SHANTZ, H. L., A biological study of the lakes of the Pike's Peak region—preliminary report. *Trans. Amer. Mic. Soc.* 27:75-98. 1907.